

Meeting Record

**MPO Technical Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 2005
555 South 10th, Room 113
Lincoln, Nebraska**

MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Roger Figard, Randy Hoskins, Larry Worth, Virendra. Singh, Public Works/Utilities; Marvin Krout, David Cary, Planning; Marc Wullschleger, Urban Development; Don Thomas, Doug Pillard, County Engineering; Ron Schlautman (representing Steve McBeth), James Miller (representing Jim Knott) NDOR; Jon Large (representing John Wood), Lincoln Airport Authority.

OTHERS: Brian Praeuner, Mike Brienzo, Karen Sieckmeyer, Public Works/Utilities; Duncan Ross, Planning; Phyllis Hergenrader, Friends of Wilderness Park; Steve Burnham, Federal Highway Association.

STATED PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Technical Committee Meeting

Marvin Krout called the meeting to order and roll call was taken.

Agenda Item No. 1 - Review and action on the draft minutes of the March 23, 2005, Technical Committee Meeting.

A motion was made by Roger Figard to approve the minutes, Larry Worth seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item No. 2 - Review and action on the proposed amendments to the *City of Lincoln and Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan*. The Technical Committee recommendation is being forwarded to the Lincoln/Lancaster Planning Commission for the Annual Comprehensive Plan Review.

Duncan Ross, with the Planning Department, went over the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

- ▶ Amendment 05008 is being withdrawn.
- ▶ Amendment 05007, NW 70th & West Superior; change from Priority B to Priority A. Planning staff is recommending denial.
- ▶ Amendment 05009, US. Highway 77 and I-80; change priority to industrial and commercial. Planning staff is recommending approval.
- ▶ Amendment 05011, NW 84th & Havelock; Events Center addition of commercial. Planning staff is recommending denial. This is also the amendment that the Mayor is requesting the Planning

Commission put on pending until a committee can be set up to coordinate further.

David Cary with the Planning Department went over the following proposed amendments.

- ▶ Amendment No. 05003, Dead Man's Run Trail, update trail plans is being proposed by Park and Recreation to reflect the relocation of Dead Man's Run Trail from North 33rd to North 48th Street on the South side of Huntington and Leighton. Planning staff is recommending approval.
- ▶ Amendment 05004, So. 82nd Potential Paving. The County Board has approved and is designating So. 82nd Street from Hickman Road to Panama Road, a two mile stretch, to potential paving so that 82nd can be used as a detour route with more than 3,000 trips a day which is now a gravel road. Planning staff is recommending approval.
- ▶ Amendment 05005, Downgrade of Fletcher Ave., from 14th to 27th. It is currently identified as a four lane plus turn lane facility as a minor arterial. The proposal is being brought forward on behalf of the North Hills Neighborhood to downgrade it to a collector status, 2 lane plus turn lane. Planning staff is recommending denial. Randy Hoskins wanted to mention that one of the reasons behind this amendment that is proposed by the neighborhood is that this would have a negative environmental impact on the wetlands that lie south of the proposed roadway. The City is currently designing Fletcher and as part of that the City will complete an environmental study on the wetlands, endangered species, etc. This study probably won't be complete until June but will be taken care of before that project can be moved forward.

A motion was made by Roger Figard to recommend approval of the staff recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan Amendments with the exception of 05008 which has been withdrawn, Don Thomas seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Randy Hoskins made a statement regarding Amendment 05009 where closing accesses off of a state highway in the vicinity of an interstate highway. Randy's concerns are based on access off State Highways. Direct access should be off of adjacent streets. Streets could access highways, however, we should not create driveway access from highways. Krout asked if this is something that could be resolved through site plan and platting issues? Hoskins replied that it was possible but since the proposal doesn't about any streets, it would have to be a condition that their access is on Bluff Road.

Agenda Item No. 3. Review and action on the FY 2006-2008 and 2009-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mike Brienzo commented that the TIP is brought forward to the Technical Committee annually. Included are projects implemented by Lincoln and other agencies within Lancaster County over a six year period. The programs are divided into two parts according to priority. For funding purposes, the City is asking the Technical Committee to approve the list of projects in the first three years of the program. The out-year listing is the second three years which is included for informational purposes. The priority listing primarily allocates funds to a project. The TIP comes forward at the same time that the Lincoln CIP comes forward for review. We evaluate all projects listed for conformance with the Long Range Transportation Plan for the Metropolitan Planning Area which includes projects for the State, Lancaster County, City of Lincoln, StarTran along with transit operations funding.

Ron Schlautman asked if the RTSD project (No.17 on Page H-4) had been approved? Brienzo stated that the Parks Department is developing this project in order to pursue RTP funding. Schlautman asked if they had approved RTP funds as he has not seen the paperwork come through his office yet. Krout suggested that if funding is not in place, we amend this to say “pending approval of RTP funds.”

Hoskins asked how solid is the funding schedule for the I-80 project? Schlautman replied that this is a draft and NDOR would have to run the projects again before the final TIP is printed as the schedule would change.

Detailed discussion was held regarding the South Beltway. This is an NDOR project with no listing found in the State’s TIP Projects. The City’s match money is in 2006-07 and in 08, 09 and 10 with significant dollars for this project. A decision was made to have an update from the State at the next Technical Committee Meeting.

There has been some mention of a state study of Highway 2 around the South and East Beltway proposed interchange and the possibility of a mile or two on each side of the interchange going east and west of that stretch becoming a freeway. According to the State this is just a concept now. This study would evaluate the possibility of roadways one or two miles east and west of the interchange being constructed to freeway standards. There are concerns, from a pedestrian standpoint, that they will be forcing the bicycles off at the Bennett Interchange. Krout asked that the State give a briefing on the Highway 2 concept at the next Technical Committee Meeting. Don Thomas stated that the County had received aerial photographs showing concepts for 134th, 148th, and the Bennett Interchange. Since they were extending this as a freeway, the decision had to be made with the interchange at 120th. By the time it was done, it was so close to 134th Street that something had to be done and as a result the freeway status has extended. They are having trouble with trucks trying to access 148th Street. There is a concept that we have been discussing with the Department of Roads about what 148th Street might look like without intersecting Highway 2. Krout thinks it is important for us all to be on the same level of understanding about where this is going. The County Board has instructed the Planning Department to do land use sub-area studies on that area. Thomas mentioned that the County wanted to show the County Board their proposal. Is the City planning to show the elected officials this concept? Krout thought that they would be briefing the County Board soon on the scope of the sub-area study and that may be an appropriate time to inform them that there is a concept study currently in progress.

Larry Worth asked if it was critical that this document mirror the CIP? In StarTran’s section, the page opposite B7, the GR funds were changed. In the funding source breakdown, there is no GR in the first year, it is all SR. On the page opposite B6, the purchasing of 15 buses it changes from GR to SR.

Mark Wullschleger moved that we approve the TIP with Larry Worth’s amendment, Roger Figard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.